(c) if so, the loss of revenue suffered by the Railways on this account;

(d) whether Government propose to claim charges from the organizers of the rally; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and what are the policy guidelines of Railways for the ticketless travellers for attending political rallies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. To clear the extra rush of traffic on 29.9.2002, 12 special trains were run and 23 extra coaches were attached with the regular train services.

(b) to (e) Railways did not allow people to travel without tickets. Ticketless travellers, when apprehended, are penalised as per relevant rules. However, in case of very heavy rush of passengers at times of melas and rallies, it becomes extremely difficult for the Railways, with their limited strength of ticket checking staff & RPF personnel, to effectively check the entry of unauthorized passengers, both in trains and at station premises despite their best efforts. Such situations may lead to law and order problems, which can be tackled with the State Government's assistance only.

Unreserved train coaches

†2500. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total number of general category, unreserved coaches, in trains going beyond 500 kms., never exceeds four;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is no space for standing even in the unreserved coaches due to the increasing number of passengers day-by-day and bribe is also taken forcibly at the railway stations, to get into them; and

(d) if so, what action is being taken/is likely to be taken in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, some complaints have been received regarding extortion of money for boarding unreserved coaches.Regular checks are conducted by Railways in association with police against the cornering of seats by coolies and anti-social elements. In addition, unreserved coaches are brought to the platforms in locked condition from the yards and passengers intending to travel in these coaches are asked to follow a queue system.

Rail accidents

†2501. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of minor and major rail accidents during the last six months, along with the number of accidents which have been averted;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the concrete steps taken/being taken by Government to prevent accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Total number of consequential train accidents during last six months *i.e.* June, 2002 to November, 2002 were 164. Broad *prima facie* causes of these accidents are as under: -

Cause of Accidents	Number of Accidents*
Failure of Staff	97
Failure of other than Railway Staff	38
Equipment Failure	4
Sabotage	10
Incidental	10
Not Established	1
Under Investigation	4
TOTAL :	164

* Figures are provisional.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.